

Message Text

PAGE 01 PHNOM 04251 041507 Z

51

ACTION AID-20

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 TRSE-00 NEA-10 RSR-01 RSC-01 /044 W

----- 106963

R 041112 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1144

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 4251

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, EFIN, CB

SUBJ: CENTRAL BANK GOVERNOR

REF: STATE 83373

1. TOMASSON IS CORRECT. HING KUNTHEL LEAVES MAY 20 TO ASSUME HIS NEW DUTIES AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE ADB REPRESENTING THE KHMER REPUBLIC, LAOS, SRI LANKA AND AFGHANISTAN, EFFECTIVE JUNE 1. THE APPOINTMENT IS SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED.

2. WE INDICATED TO HING KUNTHEL OUR UNHAPPINESS WITH HIS DEPARTURE AT THIS CRITICAL TIME WHEN THE COUNTRY NEEDS EVERY CAPABLE MAN IT CAN FIND. HING KUNTHEL REPLIED THE GOVERNMENT FELT RECONSTRUCTION WOULD ASSUME CRITICAL IMPORTANCE SOON AND THAT FILLING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S SLOT WOULD GIVE THE GKR THE STRENGTH IT NEEDED IN THE ADB FOR THIS PURPOSE. HE ASSERTED HE DID NOT SEEK THE JOB BUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT INSISTED THAT HE TAKE IT EVEN THOUGH THERE WERE A NUMBER OF CANDIDATES, MOST PROMINENTLY MAU SAY, WHO WANTED THE POSITION. DESPITE THESE STATEMENTS, KUNTHEL IS OBVIOUSLY HAPPY TO BE ABLE TO GET OUT OF THE BNC AND OUT OF CAMBODIA.

3. THE GOVERNOR OF THE BANK IS NAMED DIRECTLY BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE APPOINTMENT DOES NOT REQUIRE THE CONSENT OR APPROVAL OF THE PRIME MINISTER OR THE CABINET. WE UNDERSTAND THAT KIM NGUON TRACH, DIRECTOR- GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE, MAY BE NAMED INTERIM GOVERNOR PENDING THE SELECTION OF A PERMANENT CHIEF. AN EXCELLENT SUCCESSOR WOULD BE SOK CHHONG, WHO IS NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR OTHER MORE SENIOR POSTS IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT. SHOULD HE NOT BE NAMED TO OR ACCEPT ANY OF THESE, WE ARE PREPARED TO SUGGEST SOK
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL USES TO ANSWER THEIR QUESTIONS UNLESS THEY GIVE HIM THEIR NAMES, RANKS, ETC. THIS SOLDIERS WONT DO AS TO DO SO WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO MAKING OUT FOR I. R. A. ITS BLACKLIST OF SOLDIERS TO BE GOT. CONGEN HAD TOLD FOX HE MUST LEARN TO LIVE WITH RULES OF COMMUNITY AND PARTICULARLY WITH REQUIREMENTS OF SECURITY FORCES. SUBJECT DID CONTACT VOLUNTEER SERVICES AGENCY (A KIND OF LEGAL AID SOCIETY) FOR

ASSISTANCE.

4. FOX GAVE HIS CURRENT LOCAL ADDRESS AS 20 BALLYMURPHY DRIVE,
BELFAST, AND REGISTERING AT CONSULATE GENERAL. NO STATESIDE
ADDRESS IS AVAILABLE.
PENBERTHY

UNCLASSIFIED

NMAFVVZCZ

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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